

PATENT
IBM Docket No. FR9-2000-0041US1

REMARKS

Status:

Claims 1 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by the teaching of U. S. Pat. No. 5,949,876 to Ginter et al. Claims 2-26 and 28-55 are objected to as being dependent on unallowed claims but are found otherwise allowable. Claims 1 and 27 are canceled.

Claims 2-26 and 28-55 as amended are presented for reconsideration as is explained in the discussion that follows.

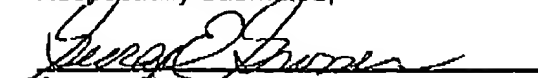
Analysis:

Claims 2, 3, 28 and 29 have been recast as independent claims. And, multiply-dependent claims 7, 8, 14, 22 have been amended (without prejudice) to no longer depend on claim 1. With these changes, it is believed claims 2-26 and 28-55 now overcome the objections of the Examiner; and, withdrawal of the objection to those claims is earnestly solicited.

Claim 22 is further amended to avoid a multiply-dependent claim depending on a multiply-dependent claim. Claims 35 and 36 are amended to correct spelling errors. In accordance with the foregoing, it is believed that this case has been placed in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited,

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Respectfully Submitted,


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